

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01692 301311 Z

53

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 IO-09

SS-14 PM-03 L-03 EB-05 DODE-00 INR-09 CIAE-00 ORM-01

SR-02 ABF-01 SCS-01 MED-01 SPM-01 RSR-01 INRE-00 /122 W

----- 064110

O 301220 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1321

INFO COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 1692

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SWEL, TS

AIDAC FOR AID DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

SUBJECT: SITREP N O. 3 - DISASTER RELIEF TUNISIA

REF: TUNIS 1670

1. TUNISIAN PRESS REVIEW OF SITUATION 29 MARCH. OFFICIAL
TUNISIAN PRESS 30 MARCH CARRIES FOLLOWING SITUATION REPORT:

A. PROVISIONAL ESTIMATES OF CASUALTIES ARE 82 DEAD AND
TOTAL 40,000 FLOOD VICTIMS. ESTIMATED 15 PER CENT DAMAGE
TO HARVEST.

B. BY AREA, JENDOUBA GOVERNORATE HAS 26 DEAD AND 3,200
VICTIMS; BEJA 16 DEAD AND 4,500 VICTIMS; LE KEF NINE DEAD
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 01692 301311 Z

AND 5,000 VICTIMS; TUNIS- SOUTH THIRTY DEAD AND 10,000 VICTIMS; KASSERINE 600 VICTIMS.

C. PRIORITY IN RESCUE OPERATIONS DEVOTED MARCH 29 TO SAVING LIVES. PRESS REPORTS TOTAL OF 23 HELICOPTERS IN OPERATION MARCH 29, INCLUDING FOUR LIBYAN, FIVE U. S. AND EIGHT ITALIAN. ALSO 26 INFLATABLE BOATS INCLUDING SIX LIBYAN AND EIGHT ITALIAN.

D. DESPITE HIGH WATERS, PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE IS NOT CONCERN FOR THE DAMS IN EASTERN TUNISIA.

E. TUNISIAN RADIO STATION AT JEDEIDA NEAR TUNIS WAS FLOODED AND GOT FEARS SERIOUS DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT. IF SO, " VOICE OF TUNISIAN MIGHT CEASE TO BE HEARD ABROAD. IN THIS CASE, FRIENDLY COUNTRIES LIKE FRANCE, USA, HOLLAND AND WEST GERMANY MIGHT HELP US TO COPE WITH SITUATION."

F. IN ADDITION ADMIRAL MILLER, COMSIXTHFLT, ITALIAN ADMIRAL MAGNINI ARRIVED TUNIS TO SURVEY SITUATION.

G. BECAUSE THOUSANDS HOMELESS, THERE WILL BE DIFFICULT PROBLEM BECAUSE OF TUNISIA'S LIMITED MEANS AND LIMITED QUANTITY OF CEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL AVAILABLE. GOT MIGHT CALL FOR FOREIGN AID.

2. FOLLOWINGS IS SITUATION AS OF 1200 Z, MARCH 30, AS WE SEE IT:

A. TUNISIANS ARE DOING EXCELLENT JOB, BETTER THAN YESTERDAY, IN COORDINATION DIFFICULT RELIEF OPERATION. HELICOPTER OPERATIONS MUCH MORE SYSTEMATIC: PARTLY AS RESULT U. S. ADVICE, OPERATIONS DIVIDED INTO SECTORS AND NOW FUNCTIONING WELL.

B. DESPITE ADDITIONAL RAIN DURING NIGHT, WATERS APPEAR TO BE RECEDING ESPECIALLY NEAR ALGERIAN BORDER. CLOSER TO TUNIS, WATERS HAVE LEVELED OFF ALTHOUGH MANY VILLAGES NEARBY STILL APPEAR TO BE IN BAD SHAPE. ACCORDING LATEST WEATHER FORECAST, HIGH PRESSURE AREA IS MOVING AWAY. TUNIS ITSELF HAS SOME SHOWERS AND CONDITIONS STILL UNSTABLE IN FLOOD AREA WITH 50-50 CHANCE SCATTERED RAINS. BUT THE WORST SEEMS TO BE PAST.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TUNIS 01692 301311 Z

C. HELICOPTERS OPERATING MARCH 30 AS FOLLOWS: (1) TOTAL NINE U. S. HELICOPTERS INCLUDING SIX SH-3 AND THREE CH-53 (JOLLY GREEN GIANTS) ON RELIEF AND SUPPLY MISSIONS; LATTER BEING USED FOR MORE DISTANT AREAS. (2) FOUR LIBYAN HELICOPTERS OF SA-321 TYPE (FRENCH MANUFACTURED). (3) SIX ITALIAN HELICOPTERS (THREE BELL AB-204 TYPE AND THREE SH-3 TYPE). (4) EIGHT TUNISIAN ARMY ALOUETTE HELICOPTERS (OUR ESTIMATE).

D. U. S. SIXTH FLEET VESSELS NOW IN TUNIS ARE USS FORRESTAL, USS SPRINGFIELD, USS SAMPSON AND USS PONCE. ONLY FORRESTAL SO FAR ENGAGED IN RELIEF OPERATION, THOUGH COMSIXTHFLT PREPARED ALSO MAKE USS PONCE, AN AMPHIBIOUS TRANSPORT DOCK, AVAILABLE AS NEEDED.

3. OTHER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OTHER COUNTRIES AS FOLLOWS:

A. IN RESPONSE GOT REQUEST TO ITALY FOR 1,000 TENTS, ITALY BROUGHT IN ON MARCH 29 TWENTY TENTS AND FOUR HUNDRED BLANKETS. ITALIAN EMBASSY INFORMS US IT IS SUPPLYING ON MARCH 30 EIGHT TENTS AND 1,300 BLANKETS. ITALIANS FURTHER INFORM US THAT THIS LARGELY DEPLETES THEIR RELIEF SUPPLIES AVAILABLE, SINCE EVIDENTLY SOME DANGER OF FLOODS IN ITALY ITSELF.

B. FRENCH EMBASSY TELLS US THEY DELIVERED ONE HUNDRED TENTS LAST NIGHT. FRENCH STILL STUDYING WHAT ADDITIONAL HELP THEY CAN PROVIDE.

C. WEST GERMAN MILITARY ATTACHE INFORMS THAT MEDICAL SUPPLIES FRG MOBILE SURGICAL HOSPITAL RECENTLY SUPPLIED TO TUNISIAN ARMY MOVED TO AREA. GERMANY PREPARED FLY IN ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES IF REQUESTED.

D. COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINU COORDINATE CLOSELY HERE WITH OTHER DONORS.

4. USG HAS RECEIVED EXTREMELY FAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN PRESS AND ON TELEVISION FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN RELIEF OPERATION (TUNISIAN RADIO HAS NOT BEEN FUNCTIONING, ALTHOUGH BROADCASTING NOW GOING ON VIA TELEVISION CHANNEL). OFFICIAL L' ACTION CARRIES PROMINENT FIRST- PAGE PHOTOGRAPH OF AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 TUNIS 01692 301311 Z

SAILOR HELPING SMALL TUNISIAN CHILD OUT OF U. S. HELICOPTER.

5. FIVE AID SPECIALISTS EXPECTED RETURN MOMENTARILY FROM HELICOPTER- CONDUCTED SURVEY UNDERTAKEN THIS MORNING. WILL HAVE BETTER ESTIMATE OF FURTHER NEEDS UPON THEIR RETURN.

MEANWHI

LE, PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR
HAVE INVITED AMBASSADORS OF THREE OUTSIDE COUNTRIES
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE -- US., ITALY AND LIBYA -- TO
ACCOMPANY THEM THIS AFTERNOON ON TRIP TO FLOODED AREAS IN
TUNISIAN HELICOPTERS.
SEELYE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TUNIS01692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730343/aaaainfv.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 TUNIS 1670
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980113
Subject: SITREP N O. 3 - DISASTER RELIEF TUNISIA
TAGS: SWEL, TS
To: AID
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BONN
MULTIPLE
PARIS
ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

